



2012 Annual Report



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Our Vision

To be the pre-eminent emergency management agency in the Caribbean and the Nation by providing an effective, responsible, and professional network of services to ensure resiliency before, during, and after a natural or man-made incident that may impact the safety and well-being of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Our Mission

The principal mission of VITEMA as a first response coordinator, is to save lives and property of the territory's population, by preparing territorial organizations to respond to, recover from and mitigate against All-Hazards, through planning, coordinating, training and exercise activities and is the sole Virgin Islands government agency designated to supervise, administer and coordinate All-Hazards response and recovery operations.





Flag Created by Elton Lewis

The official flag of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency was adopted in September 2011. It consists of a simplified, combined version of the Great Seal of the United States Virgin Islands between the letters and the seal of the VITEMA since its inception in 1981.

The eagle holds a laurel branch in one talon which represents our mission to save lives and protect property from natural and man-made disasters through determined planning. The arrows in the other talon represents our steadfast vision that the Virgin Islands become the pre-eminent leader of emergency management in the Caribbean and the Nation by providing an effective and professional network of services to ensure resiliency before, during, and after a natural or man-made incident.

The red and white stripes encapsulated by a blue border are a symbol of the charges of VITEMA – homeland security, 911 emergency operations and emergency preparedness and response. The flag of green and gold chain symbolizes the resilience and unity of VITEMA through oneness of mind and body of all its members.

Message from the Director



“Preparedness and self-sufficiency continue to be my vision and mantra for emergency management in the Virgin Islands.”

The key to building a resilient community is ensuring that the citizenry is well-informed about preparedness for all types of hazards, and that first responders and emergency managers are trained and ready when there is an imminent threat. I also believe that, because the US Virgin Islands is geographically-removed from the United States, we bare the larger responsibility of fostering an environment of self-sufficiency. Preparedness and self-sufficiency continues to be my vision and mantra for emergency management in the Virgin Islands.

In 2012, the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency made notable progress in accomplishing our ever-expanding goals. The Agency completed vital strategic plans, provided key training and exercises propelling the first responder community to achieve higher levels of readiness, and dedicated much effort to community engagement and to strengthening our partnerships with the federal government, non-government organizations and the private sector.

The *2012 Annual Report* provides a summary of VITEMA’s accomplishments throughout the year. The Agency made significant strides under considerable fiscal constraints and human resource challenges. We were resolved to meet each obstacle with creative solutions and a determination to fulfill the mission of saving lives and protecting property from all-hazards, natural or manmade.

//SIGNED//
ELTON LEWIS
Director

About the Director

Elton Lewis was nominated by Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr., for the position of Director of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) on November 23, 2010.

On December 6, 2010 he was appointed Acting Director, and assumed duties. He was sworn in as Director on May 3, 2011 following his confirmation by the 29th Legislature of the US Virgin Islands. He also serves as Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor. In this most critical capacity, Director Lewis assists the Governor with his most important responsibility, that of protecting citizens, property, and businesses from the threat of terrorism and natural and man-made disasters.

Most recently, Gov. de Jongh appointed Lewis to serve as the State Coordinator for the 1033 Law Enforcement Support Program, which is administered through the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). As the State Coordinator, Lewis is charged with facilitating the process of law enforcement agencies acquiring military surplus equipment. The Law Enforcement Support program also provides general equipment, such as file cabinets, copiers, and fax machines that agencies may need to function but perhaps are unable to afford.

Prior to his appointment as VITEMA Director, Lewis worked as the Director of the Joint Staff for the Virgin Islands National Guard (VING) and served as Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD) from March 2003 to January 2007. He received his Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies at Central Texas College in 1982 while serving in the U.S. Army and later received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Roger Williams University. He has a graduate certificate from Central Michigan University in Leadership. In April 2012, Lewis was awarded a certificate of completion for the General and Flag Officer Homeland Security Executive Seminar, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education.

Lewis is a member of the VING where he holds the rank of Brigadier General (BG) and serves as the Assistant Adjutant General. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, 154th Session; the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; the U.S. Army Protective Service; the Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program (ELP), at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), and has completed the U.S. Army War College as a senior fellow with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). He served as a security specialist with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-(FEMA) as well as on numerous special projects, task forces and commissions. He has participated in the following professional development and training courses: Terrorism Planning Course: Incident Command System Training; National Incident Management System Training Program; and special training in a National Response Plan.

He is a member of the National Guard Association (NGAUS), the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP), Military Police Regimental Association - Life Member; Association of the United States Army (AUSA) - Life Member; American Federal Contract Investigators Association (AFCIA); International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM); National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and a member of the American Legion, Post 85.

VITEMA's Leadership Team

Director.....	Elton Lewis
Chief Financial Officer.....	Clement C. Magras
Deputy Director, Administration & Finance.....	Debra Henneman-Smith
Deputy Director, Preparedness.....	Al Javois
Chief Systems Manager/Logistics.....	Asim Frett
Public Information Officer.....	Christine Lett
Manager, VI Fusion Center.....	Wayne Bryan
Manager, St. Thomas-St. John District 9-1-1 ECC.....	Carolyn Wattley
Manager, St. Croix District 9-1-1 ECC.....	Ninafe Awong
Manager, St. Thomas Emergency Operations Center.....	Joseph Hodge
Manager, St. Croix Emergency Operations Center.....	Denise Lewis
Manager, St. John Emergency Operations Center.....	Linda Williams
Territorial Communications Officer.....	Adelle Williams
Exercise Planner.....	Roy McFarlane
Training Coordinator.....	Irvin Mason
Facilities Manager, St. Croix.....	Ethelbert Benjamin

Executive Summary

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) is the lead emergency management agency in the Virgin Islands with a mission to protect life and property through enhancing organizational and technological operations and cooperation, which promotes all-hazard preparedness for all disasters, natural and man-made.

Throughout 2012, attaining Tsunami-Ready status remained a high priority for VITEMA. In June, VITEMA secured 100 tsunami hazard zone and tsunami evacuation route signs for installation in communities considered most at risk. The communities include the historic district towns of Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas and Christiansted and Frederiksted on St. Croix. In addition, VITEMA completed the contract for Phase II of the All-Hazards Siren Warning System installation. The phase-two installation calls for an additional 12 sirens — six on St. Croix and six on St. Thomas — and is projected to begin in early 2013. These accomplishments leave VITEMA with just one requirement remaining to reach NOAA-National Weather Service's Tsunami-Ready status — the development of inundation maps. We are boldly projecting achieving Tsunami-Ready status in 2013.

The Agency also focused on driving home the message of preparedness for all hazards. In May 2012, VITEMA sponsored its annual *All-Hazards Preparedness Expo* on all four of the Virgin Islands — for the first time since its inception in 2008. The event kicked off May 24, on St. John, then moved to St. Thomas, Water Island and finally St. Croix. It featured first responders and rescue demonstrations, private sector businesses and federal agencies that aid the Territory during the disasters. The Expo required enormous coordination and its success can be attributed to contributions of the VITEMA staff, dedicated volunteers, donors, vendors and participants. VITEMA also incorporated an essay contest as part of the event, to heighten interest in preparedness amongst youth and to encourage families to attend the expo.

Throughout the year, VITEMA coordinated and provided training and exercises for personnel in the field of emergency management. The highlight of the year is the annual multi-hazard and maritime full-scale exercise, *Operation Tide Breaker II*. Planners brought together close to 30 entities representing the local and federal government, non-government organizations and the maritime industry to participate in the two-day exercise at various venues including onboard Royal Caribbean's *Adventure of the Seas*. Scenarios included an explosive device, hazardous materials and active shooter, and players included the VI Police Department, VI Fire Service, VI Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services, the VI National Guard's 23rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD CST), the FBI and the US Coast Guard. National preparedness efforts continue to focus on homeland security as one of its highest priorities.

While VITEMA accomplished much in 2012, the Agency did so with constrained financial resources and while members of the senior leadership transitioned into retirement. Retirees included the Assistant Director, the Deputy Director of Grants Management, and the Chief Financial Officer. In total six retired from the Agency during 2012.

Year in Review

2012



OPERATIONS



Storm Response

During the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season, VITEMA activated its Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) territorywide in response to two tropical storms — Isaac and Rafael. As part of the storm response effort, VITEMA also coordinated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which deployed a 25-person Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) within 24 hours of notification to support the Territory. The IMAT co-located with the local government agencies represented in the EOCs. The VITEMA Director also activated the VI Emergency Management Council and the US Coast Guard to make critical decisions including the opening of shelters for the general public and Special Needs population, closure of government operations, imposing a curfew and instituting a price freeze. Both Isaac and Rafael shifted while approaching the Virgin Islands and minimal to no impact was incurred.



Emergency Support Function Coordinators co-locate at the St. Croix Emergency Operations Center for Tropical Storm Isaac in August 2012.

Emergency Operations Center

In 2012, VITEMA created and filled three manager positions, one for each island's Emergency Operations Center. These are among the most critical positions at VITEMA, not only in the event of a disaster, but also throughout the entire year as the EOCs are operational with training, exercises, and Emergency Support Function Coordinator meetings. During the 2012 Atlantic Hurricane Season, for the first time, full-time, designated EOC managers were available on St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John to coordinate response efforts and to work closely with federal partners deployed to the Territory.

Virgin Islands Fusion Center

On June 24, 2011 Governor John P. De Jongh, Jr signed an Executive Order creating the Virgin Islands Fusion Center under the control of VITEMA. Its mission is to prevent and deter acts of terrorism and criminal activity within the Virgin Islands, and to promote public safety through intelligence fusion and information sharing with all its law enforcement partners.

In 2012, the VI Fusion Center — with the overarching goal of protecting the residents, visitors and critical infrastructure of the U.S. Virgin Islands — continued to build partnerships and to provide critical intelligence data to support law enforcement efforts. The Center processed more than 180 Requests for Information in support of local and federal law enforcement, including locating several fugitives hiding in the Territory and on the US mainland and identifying the next of kin of individuals involved in a small aircraft accident.



Much of the work conducted by the VI Fusion Center can be attributed to building and strengthening key working relationships with law enforcement agencies. Throughout the year, VI Fusion Center maintained its presence, as a representative of VITEMA, on the Harbor Security Committee, US Coast Guard Maritime Security Committee, and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. In 2012, the VI Fusion Center became a voting member of the Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Board and also received an appointment to serve as chair of the US Coast Guard's Executive Harbor Security Committee.

The Center also coordinated meetings between the Naval Criminal Investigative Services and local responders to complete a security assessment for the possibility of future visits from naval assets, and initiated discussions regarding the creation of a Hotel Security Committee.

The Center interacted and worked regularly with VI Department of Justice, VI Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Border Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Marshal Service, Drug Enforcement Agency, Transportation Security Administration, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, Virgin Islands Police Department, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Park Service, and the Puerto Rico Fusion Center.

This year, due the significant progress of the VI Fusion Center, the US Department of Homeland Security's Intelligence and Analysis office assigned an Intelligence Officer to the Virgin Islands to support in the VI Fusion Center and to expand its mission in the Territory. In addition, the US Custom and Border Protection Office assigned a part time officer and the US Citizen and Immigration Services also pledged to provide a dedicated liaison to the Fusion Center.

Training of law enforcement and security personnel remain a vital component of the Fusion Center's mission. In 2012, the Center coordinated and provided the following training:

- FBI e-Guardian Training
- I2 Analyst Notebook Training
- National Improvised Explosive Familiarization
- Beginner/Intermediate Interview and Interrogation Techniques
- IED Search Procedures
- Fusion Information Exchange Program

The Fusion Center also exercised its capabilities in the *Operation Tide Breaker II* full-scale exercise, St. John Inter-Agency Maritime Exercise and the US Coast Guard Maritime Exercise.

911 Emergency Communications Center

The 911 Emergency Communications Centers at St. Thomas and St. Croix each fielded an average of 15,000 calls per month for emergency assistance — more than 350,000 calls per year requiring operators to possibly dispatch first responders.

Operators continued to play a key role in managing small-scale incidents on a day-to-day basis including vehicular accidents, major crimes such as homicides, and calls for medical assistance.

The 911 ECCs also participated in annual exercises, testing the dispatch process and incident notification to the appropriate government officials.

During *Operation Tide Breaker II*, the full-scale exercise at Frederiksted, St.

Croix, the district's 911 Center successfully activated two sirens in the All-Hazards Siren Warning System. In addition to managing emergency calls, operators are responsible monthly silent testing and triggering the siren warning system in the event of a major emergency such as an earthquake or tsunami. This year, VITEMA implemented an All-Hazards Siren Warning System Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which outlines the system's operations and training for ECC employees.

In 2012, the 911 ECC also launched a community outreach program to teach the student-age population about why and when to call 911. During the month of April, National 9-1-1 Education Month, 911 employees along with police officers visited three elementary schools.



Ninafe Awong, 911 Emergency Communications Center Manager for St. Croix, speaks to elementary school students during National 9-1-1 Education Month.



PREPAREDNESS



Planning

During 2012 the Agency made notable progress in building strategic plans for all types of hazards, which is critical to guide an efficient, coordinated response and recovery from disaster. The following plans were completed:

- The *Territorial Homeland Security Strategy 2012 – 2014*, identifies the Territory’s homeland security goals and objectives and explains how the Virgin Islands’ government plans to achieve them. It provides a strategic vision that will guide how the Territory will work in partnership with federal, regional and private sector entities to enhance territory-wide capabilities to detect, prevent, respond to, and manage the consequences of acts of terrorism and other critical incidents.
- The *Emergency Operations Center Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)* describes the roles and responsibilities that each department has as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) Lead or as the support agency. The ESF structure provides mechanisms for the inter-departmental coordination during all phases of an event as well as coordination with federal agencies.
- The *US Virgin Islands Emergency Alert System Plan* is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC)-mandated document outlining the organization and implementation of the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Alert System (VITEAS). The plan is the guideline for broadcasters, cable television operators and local entities authorized to use the Emergency Alert System.
- In February, the VITEMA Director and Gov. John P. de Jongh Jr. signed the Territory’s first *Virgin Islands Tsunami Incident Annex* which establishes guidelines for a widely-coordinated response involving local government, voluntary organizations and private sector.

Tsunami Readiness

A tsunami could be generated and reach local coastlines within minutes if triggered by a major earthquake near or in the Virgin Islands region. In addition to the landmark tsunami response plan, VITEMA focused a tremendous amount of effort working toward the goal of attaining “Tsunami-Ready” status.

The Tsunami-Ready Program, developed by the NOAA’s National Weather Service, is designed to help communities in coastal areas reduce the potential for disastrous tsunami-related consequences. As of October 2012, there were 122 Tsunami-Ready sites located in 10 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and Anguilla, W.I.

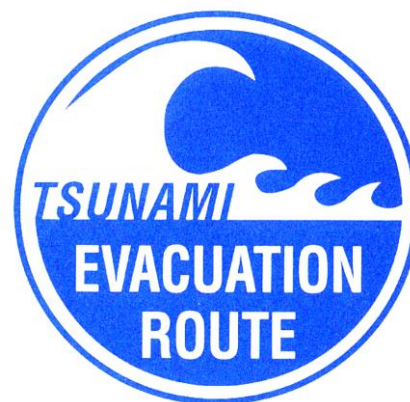
VITEMA has already met several requirements for the Tsunami-Ready program including:

- ✓ Establishing a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- ✓ Having more than one way to receive tsunami warnings and to alert the public.
- ✓ Developing a formal tsunami plan that includes holding emergency exercises.

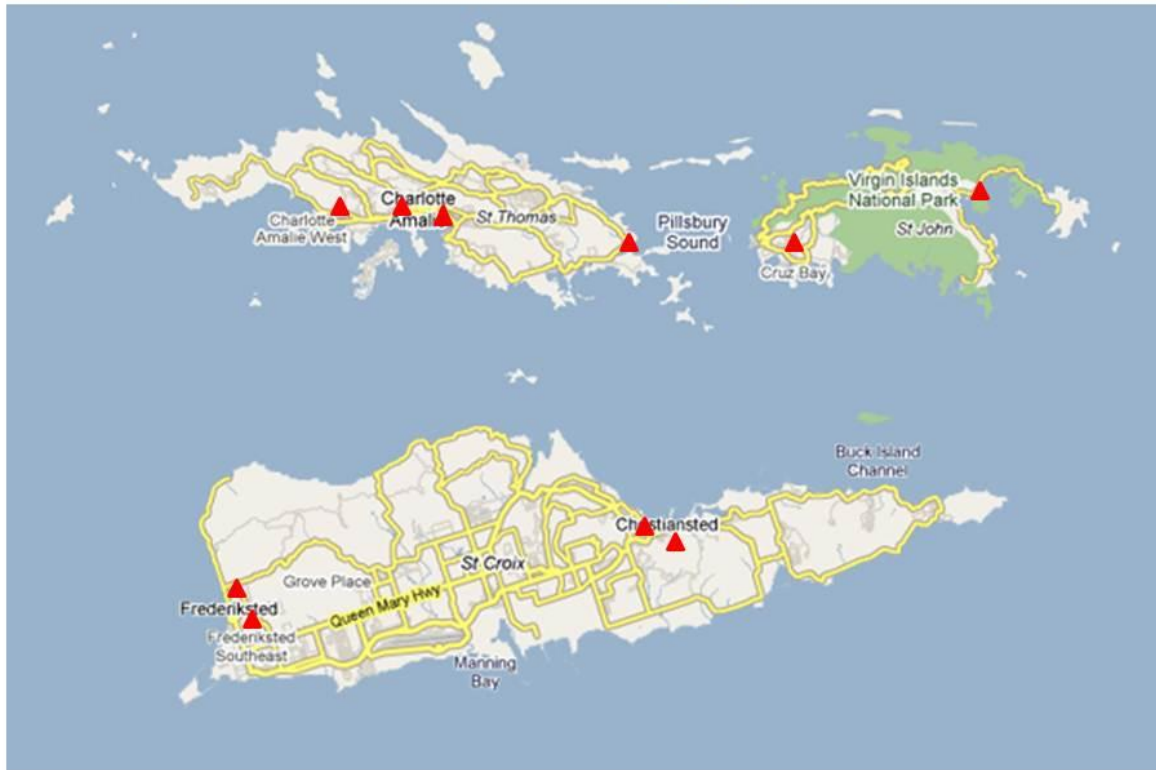
In 2012, VITEMA purchased 100 tsunami hazard zone and evacuation route signs to be installed at areas in St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John. Installation is set for early 2013 and includes the historic district towns of Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, and Christiansted and Frederiksted, St. Croix.

The contract for the second phase installation of the All-Hazards Warning Siren is near completion. In June 2011, VITEMA installed 10 all-hazards warning sirens across the Virgin Islands — four on St. Croix, four on St. Thomas and two on St. John — concentrating on areas considered high-risk for tsunami. The second phase includes an additional 12 sirens to be divided equally between St. Croix and St. Thomas.

Completion of the installation of the all-hazards siren warning system remains VITEMA’s top priority. The warning system is one of the most significant advancements made in planning for a catastrophic event. The sirens provide both tone and voice messages to warn anyone outdoors, within its range, of an imminent threat or danger.



All-Hazards Siren Warning System-Phase 1



ST. CROIX

Frederiksted Town (2)
Christiansted Town (2)

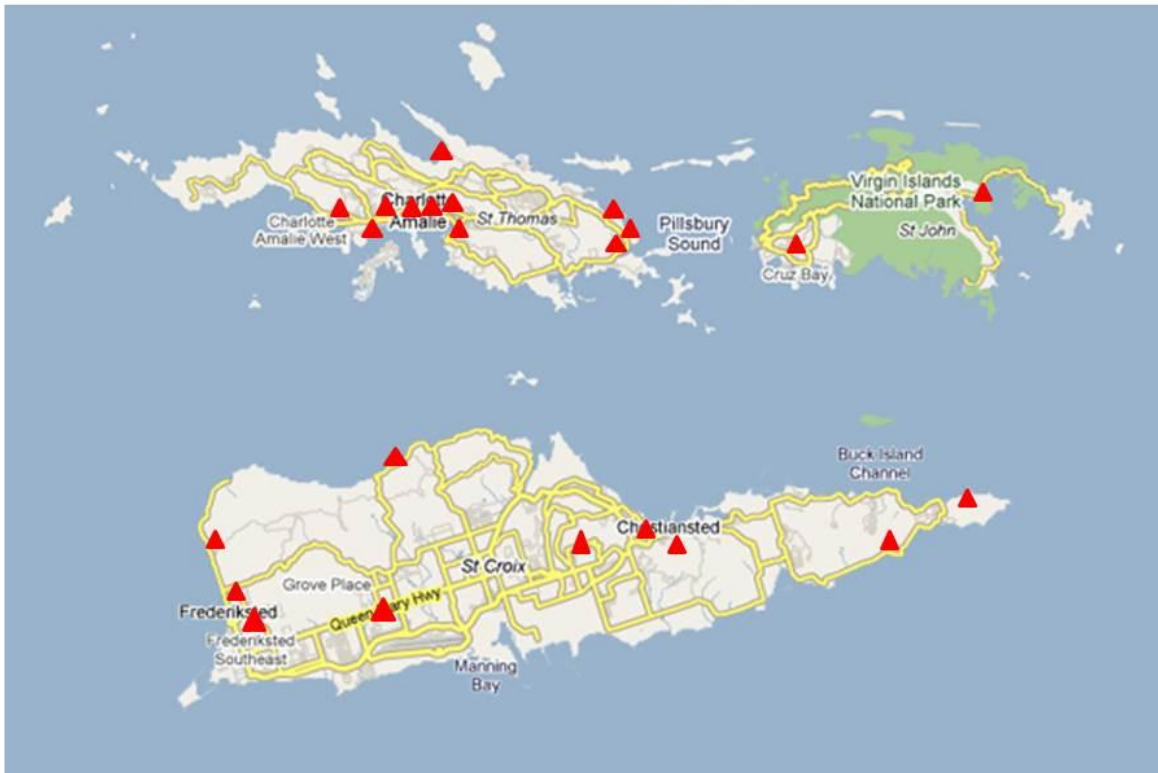
ST. THOMAS

Cyril E. King Airport
Emile Griffith Ball Park
Yacht Haven Sugar Mill
Red Hook Marina

ST. JOHN

Cruz Bay
Coral Bay

All-Hazards Siren Warning System-Phase 2



ST. CROIX

Estate Sion Farm
William's Delight
Cane Bay
Cramer's Park
Fort Croft
Divi Carina Bay

ST. THOMAS

Crown Bay
Addelita Cancryn Junior High School
Lucinda Millin Home, Beltjen Road
Red Hook, Independent Boat Yard
Coki Point Beach
Megan's Bay Beach

Exercises

VITEMA, as a policy, also conducts exercises to test the readiness of its emergency operations centers and other government agencies territorially throughout the year. During 2012, VITEMA conducted and participated in six joint exercises to test various capabilities.

On Nov. 19-20, VITEMA, the VI National Guard, other local and federal response agencies, along with the maritime industry, participated in the Territory's annual full-scale multi-hazard and maritime exercise titled ***“Operation Tide Breaker II.”*** The town and port of Frederiksted, St. Croix, was the backdrop for the two-day exercise.

Operation Tide Breaker II tested several capabilities including; intelligence/information sharing and dissemination, interoperable communications, onsite incident management, emergency triage and pre-hospital treatment, medical evacuation, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)/Hazardous Material (HazMat) response and explosive device response operations.

VITEMA and the VI National Guard, with support from FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), developed the scenarios and exercise objectives, and spent several months coordinating the participation of multiple government agencies and the maritime industry.

On Day One of the exercise took local and federal agencies responded to a potential hazardous material incident onboard Royal Caribbean's *Adventure of the Seas* cruise ship docked at the Ann E. Abramson Pier. Day Two of *Operation Tide Breaker II* was land-based and took place at the Paul E. Joseph Stadium, where first responders responded to an active shooter incident.

Participating entities included VI National Guard's 23rd WMD CST, VI Fire Service, VI Police Department, VI Port Authority, VI Rescue, VI Department of Health-Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Juan F. Luis Hospital, Frederiksted Health Center, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, US Coast Guard, the FBI, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., and VITEMA's Fusion Center, 911 Emergency Communications Center and Emergency Operations Center.

As part of the exercise, VITEMA also activated two warning sirens at Frederiksted located at the Government Parking Lot and on Emancipation Drive. The activations, which announced a hazard materials accident and an 'all clear' message, were successful.

National preparedness efforts continue to focus on homeland security as one of its highest priorities. *Operation Tide Breaker II* brought together multiple public sector entities and the private sector to exercise response capabilities involving a homeland security incident.

For the past two years, the exercise has also included the private sector. FEMA also continues to play a significant role in supporting the annual full-scale exercise.

VITEMA also participated in:

- US Coast Guard's Functional Exercise to test the Virgin Islands Marine Security Plan.
- FEMA's Communications Exercise to test VI capabilities.
- FEMA's COOP (Continuity of Operations) Table Top Exercise
- FEMA's Validation Exercise to test its USVI All Hazards Plan.
- St. John Maritime Inter-Agency Exercise (sponsored by Westin St. John Resorts)

OPERATION TIDE BREAKER II

VITEMA - 23d WMD EST - USCG - FEMA





Day 1 – Operation Tide Breaker II

Figure 1. Royal Caribbean's *Adventures of the Seas* at Frederiksted.

Figure 2. VITEMA Director Elton Lewis with US Coast Guard Captain David Flaherty.

Figure 3-5. VI National Guard 23rd Civil Support Team arrives to investigate incident onboard.

Figure 6. CST members prepare to board *Adventure of the Seas*; 6. Lewis speaks with observers from various National Guard CSTs.



8



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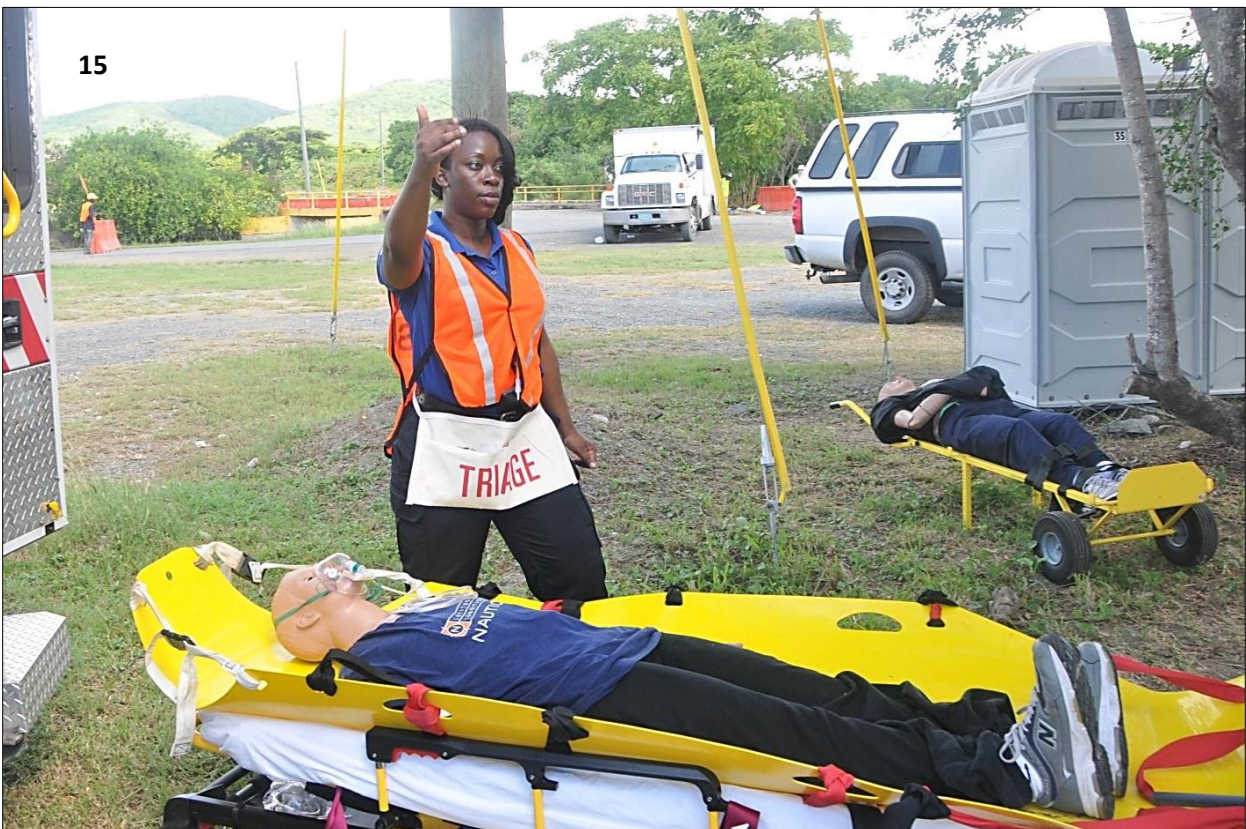
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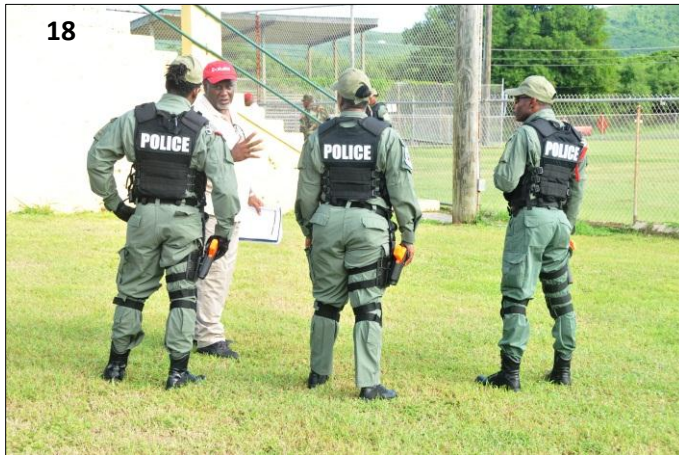
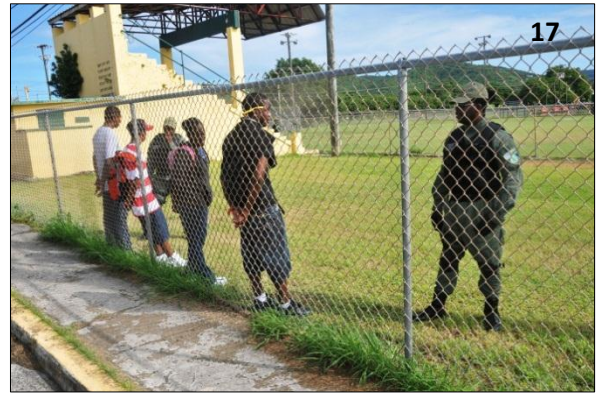


Day 1 – Operation Tide Breaker II

Figures 8 – 12; VI Fire Service's HazMat Response Unit establishes a Decontamination site at the Frederiksted parking lot for victims of the hazardous material release.

Figures 12 – 15; VI Department of Health's Emergency Medical Services and St. Croix St. Rescue develop a triage and treatment site.





Day 2 – Operation Tide Breaker II

Figures 16 – 19; VI Police Department's Special Operations Unit, the VI Fire Service, VI Health Department's Emergency Medical Services and St. Croix Rescue respond to an active shooter incident at the Paul E. Joseph Stadium.



Training

The agency also initiated training to increase preparedness in all aspects of emergency management and homeland security. During 2012, VITEMA provided numerous training opportunities for emergency management responders, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, and hospital staff, including the following courses:

- Emergency Operations and Planning for All-Hazards
- Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response
- HazMat/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident Operations
- Tsunami Awareness Course
- Medical Preparedness and Response to Bombing Incidents
- Law Enforcement Prevention and Deterrence of Terrorist Acts
- Transit Terrorist Tools and Tactics
- WMD Tactical Operations
- ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents
- Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- Hurricane Evacuation Training
- Executive Seminar: Prevention, Deterrence and Response to Campus Emergency

In addition, VITEMA provided Bomb Threat Incident and Tsunami Awareness training to VI Superior Court employees at the St. Thomas and St. Croix districts.

VITEMA's Training Division also coordinated Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for more than 200 VI Department of Health employees.



Law enforcement personnel participate in Active Shooter Response training.



Participants of the Legal Issues and Disasters course held at the Divi Carina Bay on St. Croix.

Other training highlights include the launch of a *Legal Issues and Disasters* course offered by the University of the District of Columbia and the *University of the Virgin Islands Emergency Response Plan* four-hour course sponsored the University of the Virgin Islands.

In February 2012, a team of experts from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) Institute for Public Safety and Justice Homeland Security/Emergency Management Division spent two days in the Territory, providing emergency managers with key information and best practices in managing legal issues that arise during disaster response and recovery.

The information course, titled “Legal Issues and Disasters: Things You Should Know,” was designed by the UDC to enhance the ability of state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, emergency managers and planners, first responders and voluntary organizations, to identify potential legal issues. Topics included Planning, Evacuation, Shelters, Out of State Volunteers, and Federal Financial Assistance and Reimbursement.

More than 30 representatives of the public and private sector attended the course. Participants examined potential issues and liabilities that can arise within their jurisdiction or agency responsibilities and at the conclusion was able to apply the concepts covered to facilitate planning and activities within their agency, or organization.

The University of the Virgin Islands sponsored an Emergency Response Plan course on both the St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses during October 2012. The course was developed to assist the University of the Virgin Islands in preparing a comprehensive emergency response plan and focused on skills necessary to lead a coordinated response effort. D. Stafford & Associates (DSA), a consulting firm specializing in campus safety and security, law enforcement issues related to college campuses, conducted the course.



VITEMA Director Elton Lewis, center, along with other participants in the University of the Virgin Islands-sponsored course on campus emergency response planning. The course was held in October 2012.

VITEMA 2012 Training & Exercise Calendar

TRAINING	DATE	LOCATION
Emergency Operations Center & Planning for All-Hazards	January	St. Croix
Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorists Acts	February	St. Thomas
Legal Issues & Disasters Course	February	St. Croix, St. Thomas
Teen CERT	February	St. Croix
Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents	February	St. Croix, St. Thomas
FEMA Validation Exercise – USVI All Hazards Plan	February	St. Thomas, St. Croix
Transit Terrorist Tools & Tactics	March	St. Thomas, St. Croix
WMD Tactical Operations	March	St. Croix
Tsunami Awareness Course	May	St. Croix, St. Thomas
ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents - 200	May	St. Thomas
ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents - 200	June	St. Thomas
Hurrevac Training	June	St. Thomas
FEMA Communications Exercise	June	St. Croix
US Coast Guard Port Security Exercise	June	St. Thomas
(ICS 300) Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents	June	St. Thomas, St. Croix
HazMat/WMD Incident Operations	July	St. Croix, S. Thomas
Transit Terrorist Tools & Tactics	July	St. Thomas, St. Croix
Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response	August	St. Thomas, St. Croix
Continuity of Operations Table Top Exercise	August	St. Thomas
Executive Seminar: Prevention, Deterrence & Response to Campus Emergency	September	St. Thomas, St. Croix
University of the Virgin Islands Emergency Response Plan	October	St. Thomas, St. Croix
St. John Maritime Inter-Agency Exercise	November	St. John
Annual Full-Scale Multi-Hazard & Maritime Exercise	November	St. Croix

Community Engagement

As the emergency management agency for the Virgin Islands, our mandate is also to prepare our citizens for all hazards.

CERT

In 2012, VITEMA, in partnership with VI Rescue, hosted Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program classes for adults and students. The CERT program falls under the umbrella of the Citizen Corp Council, a national organization created by President Bush in 2002 to help coordinate volunteer activities that make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation.

The CERT and Teen CERT programs train citizens in basic disaster response skills so that they can assist their neighborhoods, workplaces and schools following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Elena Christian Junior High School volunteers spent a week learning basic disaster response skills including fire safety, small fire suppression, light search and rescue, disaster

medical operations, advanced CPR and team organization. Certified CERT trainers with the St. Croix Rescue Academy served as instructors.

The program culminated with a mock full-scale disaster exercise based on earthquake and tsunami incident. The exercise tested the myriad of disaster response and management skills learned in the classroom and in field training.

VITEMA certified 30 adult participants in St. Thomas and a class of 45 Elena Christian Junior High School students on St. Croix.



Elena Christian Junior High School Teen CERT volunteers demonstrate first aid skills.



VITEMA Staff at the 2012 Expo on St. Croix.

Annual All-Hazards Preparedness Expo

In May, VITEMA hosted the **2012 Annual All Hazards Preparedness Expos** on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and for the first time, St. John and Water Island. The expo is designed to heighten awareness of being prepared by making preparedness information easily accessible and by allowing the community to interact, face-to-face, with first responders and other emergency management entities. The 2012 Expo kicked off in St. John and then moved to St. Thomas and Water Island before concluding on St. Croix. This year's expo featured rescue demonstrations by the VI Rescue,

members of Teen CERT and the VI Fire Service. Participants included more than 20 agencies, representing the local and federal government, voluntary organizations and the private sector. A mini-Expo was also held June 30, at the Sunshine Mall in Frederiksted, St. Croix.

Amateur Radio

For the past two years, VITEMA and VI amateur radio clubs have been cultivating a mutually beneficial partnership to support the Territory's emergency communications systems. This year, VITEMA and the VI Amateur Radio Club of St. Croix graduated five residents as the Territory's newest amateur radio operators, adding to the cadre of radio operators available to enhance redundant communications during a disaster.

Volunteers from the St. Croix Amateur Radio Club trained residents for the beginning amateur radio license over eight weeks between September and October. The core instructional elements consisted of simple radio principles, safety, operating procedures, and regulations. Morse code is no longer a license requirement.

Volunteer examiners administered the Federal Communications Commission technician class license test and five students were successful in passing the test.

Amateur radio continues to play an important role in supporting communications during a disaster. Amateur radio operators, frequently referred to as "ham radio" operators, in many past disasters have provided backup emergency communications — including during Hurricane Hugo which devastated the island of St. Croix in 1989. It is often one of the few, if not the only, form of communication after major disasters.



Above: VITEMA Director Elton Lewis presents Aretha Marshall with a certificate for passing the Amateur Radio Operator license exam. Below: Volunteer amateur radio operators examiners, left to right, John Sunkel, Alvin Rymsha, Brian Keegan, Lisa Kleber and Debra Cullen.



2012 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

All Hazards Preparedness Expo



Bring the family

Bring a friend

and be informed!!

Thursday, May 24, 2012 - St. John ~ Frank Powell Park, Cruz Bay
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday, May 25, 2012 - St. Thomas ~ Emancipation Garden
4:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, May 26, 2012 - Water Island
2:00 pm - 5:00pm

Sunday, May 27, 2012 - St. Croix ~ Christiansted National Historical Site
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm



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FEMA DIAGEO





**ST. THOMAS – ST. JOHN EXPO
MAY 24 – 25, 2012**







**ST. CROIX EXPO
MAY 28, 2012**





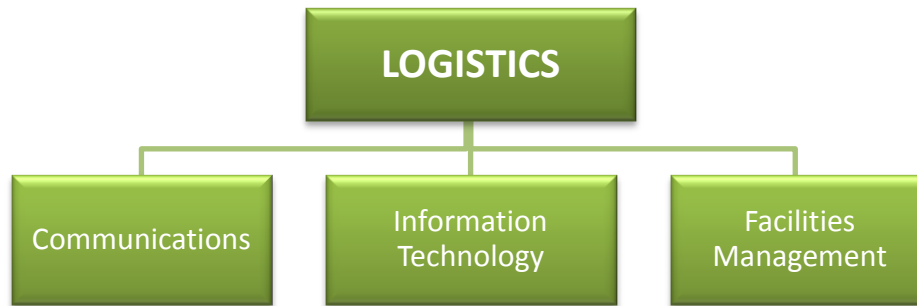


RESCUE DEMONSTRATIONS





LOGISTICS



Throughout the year, VITEMA worked to maintain its facilities and to make improvements where needed. In 2011, VITEMA was faced with the challenge of relocating its St. Croix staff and the Emergency Operations Center to a new facility, after the Hermon Hill facility was deemed uninhabitable due to a mold infestation.

By the end of January 2011, the St. Croix office moved its office to a temporary location at King Cross Street, Christiansted, and began transforming the three-story building to meet the needs of the Agency.

This transformation included wiring the offices with a new phone and network system. Today, the temporary facility has been completely outfitted with a fully-functioning EOC, Communications Room, Media Room, a private conference room and staff offices.

Before, during and after a disaster, VITEMA's EOCs serve as the central location for federal and local emergency responders to coordinate a response and recovery effort. It is vital that the EOCs are capable of communicating with each other and the outside world.

In 2012, VITEMA significantly enhanced communications. The Agency can now directly communicate — by phone, radio, Internet and video conference — with FEMA's main EOC at Mt. Weather, Virginia, and any other EOC on FEMA's network no matter where they are in the country. VITEMA's three EOCs are outfitted with both video and teleconferencing capabilities.

VITEMA also fortified its communications capability by installing deployable satellite dishes at each of the EOCs that can provide the same connectivity in the event the primary communication lines are inoperable. This enhanced capability provides first responders, emergency management officials and key leadership in the Virgin Islands with robust backup communication methods which are necessary to maintain contact with federal resources during all-hazards events.

In addition, VITEMA also installed deployable satellite dishes to shore up the *VI Alert* mass alert and notification system in the event phone and Internet services in the Virgin Islands go down during a disaster.

The Agency has also continued to partner with the ham radio organizations which also provide communications redundancy. If all else fails, our last resort for communications is the Territory's ham radio operators.

Pre-Positioning Life-Sustaining Commodities

On June 1, 2012, FEMA inaugurated its new distribution center at Caguas, Puerto Rico. Distribution Center-Caribbean, built to serve Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, is strategically-located to enable FEMA to more rapidly distribute critical, life-saving supplies, such as food and water, in the immediate aftermath of an event affecting the Caribbean region.



FEMA Caribbean Distribution ribbon-cutting .(L to R) FEMA Region II Administrator Lynn Canton, FEMA Caribbean Area Division Director Alejandro de La Campa, FEMA Assistant Administrator for Logistics Management Eric Smith, VITEMA Director Elton Lewis and COL Daryl Jaschen of the VI National Guard.

The modernized Caribbean Distribution Center features up to 72,615 square feet of warehouse space, updated communications systems and a variety of emergency supplies and equipment, enhanced security, and 41 designated semi-trailer parking spaces with additional space available for 20 more semi-trailers, if needed. These areas allow FEMA to pre-stage non-perishable commodities in trailers, eliminating the lead time associated with waiting for trailer arrival, as well as picking and loading activities.

While the Virgin Islands will always need the aid of its neighbors and federal partners, the Territory is also striving to be self-sufficient in the face of disaster. In 2012, VITEMA initiated discussions on developing plans to store life-sustaining commodities in newly-identified warehouse space on St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas. During Fiscal Year 2013, VITEMA will continue to develop this initiative to ensure life-saving commodities are available to sustain the populace until aid arrives. Similar to Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands' unique geographic location demands that VITEMA plans for the possibility that help may not be available within the first 48 hours of a catastrophic disaster, and that a major disaster may render the sea and air ports inoperable. This continues to be a top priority for the Agency.

Special Communications Support Event

The White House Communications Agency recognized VITEMA's communications team for its support during Vice President Joe Biden's visit to the island of St. Croix between December 2011 and January 2012.

For the duration of the Vice President's visit, VITEMA activated the Emergency Operations Center to providing critical communications support for the Vice President, the White House Staff and the United States Secret Service.

On January 3, 2012, in a brief recognition ceremony following the conclusion of the Vice President's visit, William Crist, Vice Presidential Communications Officer presented coins and certificates of appreciation to Director BG Elton Lewis, Ethelbert "Bert" Benjamin Jr., John Ellis and Fred Kleber for the outstanding manner in which they provided support to the Vice President of the United States during his visit to St. Croix US Virgin Islands.

The certificates of appreciation read, "The members of the White House Communications Agency wish to express our sincere appreciation for the outstanding manner in which you provided support to the Vice President of the United States during his visit to St. Croix, US Virgin Islands. Your efforts, coupled with your superb attitude and impeccable professionalism, enabled us to provided critical communications for the Vice President, the White House Staff and the United States Secret Service."

Receiving recognition were VITEMA Director Elton Lewis, Ethelbert Benjamin Jr., Facilities Manager, and VITEMA communications volunteers Fred Kleber and John Ellis.



(L to R) VITEMA Director Elton Lewis, Ethelbert Benjamin Jr., Facilities Manager, and communications volunteers Fred Kleber receive White House Communication Agency recognition for communications support during a visit from Vice President Joe Biden.



GRANTS MANAGEMENT



Grants

The Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) provided funding to execute VITEMA's mission to support preparedness, planning, training, and exercise activities in emergency management. During 2012, funding was utilized to enhance and maintain the VITEMA Website, *VI Alert* and to conduct awareness campaigns throughout the Territory in schools and to private stakeholders and volunteers. EMPG funds were also used to disseminate curfew passes throughout the Territory during Hurricane Season.

Public Assistance & Hazard Mitigation

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants continued to provide funding for the VI Water and Power Authority's Christiansted Underground - Phase II, and design and installation of the underground electrical distribution system's main trunk and pad-mounted transformers on the waterfront at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas. The ongoing underground mitigation project will alleviate the repetitive damage cycle experienced from previous natural disasters.

During 2012, grants were also used for Impact Resistant Glass and Storm Shutter Projects at St. Thomas locations for the Departments of Property & Procurement, Public Works, Human Services, Department of Education, and at the Health



Hazard mitigation grant funding was used to install storm shutters at the American Red Cross, St. Croix.

Department's Morris DeCastro Clinic in St. John. The same types of projects were also completed at the US Virgin Islands American Red Cross, VI Fire Service – Emile Henderson Fire Station and Renceliar I. Gibbs Fire Station — and the VI Port Authority's Henry E. Rohlsen Airport.

Homeland Security Grant Program funds facilitate the ability of the Territory's first responders, emergency management personnel, intelligence personnel and citizens' to prepare for, respond to, recover from natural/manmade disasters; and to coordinate communication and disseminate information between territorial and federal law enforcement agencies.



Above: Shutters installed at the Henderson Fire Station on St. Croix, as result of hazard mitigation grant funding.

The utilization of Homeland Security funding has been instrumental in numerous accomplishments during 2012. The most notable accomplishments include the purchase of Tsunami Evacuation Route Signage. In addition, numerous trainings, exercises and planning sessions have also been funded through the HSGP awards including; Active Shooter Response Training and Operation Tide Breaker II Multi-Hazard and Maritime Full-Scale Exercise. Additionally, within the coming fiscal year, HSGP grants will continue to increase the Territory's communication interoperability, harden critical infrastructures and provide any additional training and exercises towards the Territory's preparedness.

Leaning **Forward** **2013**

Be Prepared, Come Early, Be Self-Sufficient

In 2013, VITEMA is projecting the completion of preparedness projects, the closure of four presidentially-declared disasters and continued training and exercises to hone the disaster response skills of first responders and emergency managers.

By summer of 2013, VITEMA will have completed the installation of the All-Hazards Siren Warning System, which provides tone and voice messages in the event there is an imminent threat to public safety. Twelve additional sirens will be installed at areas across the Territory, significantly boosting emergency public information capability.

The completion of the all-hazards warning system coupled with our planned installation of the tsunami hazard zone and evacuation signs at high-risk areas throughout the Territory, will bring us on the brink of attaining Tsunami-Ready status. Tsunami-Ready status is granted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and attaining it would put us on par with several communities in Puerto Rico and coastlines communities across the US mainland. VITEMA is also partnering with the NOAA's Caribbean Tsunami Warning Program to develop inundation maps, which is also a requirement to reach Tsunami-Ready status.

In 2012, VITEMA closed four several presidentially-declared disasters including Hurricanes Hugo. In 2013, VITEMA will work toward closing three additional disasters – the November 2003 Flood event, Tropical Storm Jeanne which struck in 2004, and Hurricane Omar which hit the Territory in 2008.

The Agency also looks forward to providing progressive training to first responders and emergency managers including advanced tactical operations for the VI Police Department special operations units, HazMat incident operations for firefighters, and advanced incident management for individuals tasked with managing various types of incidents. All of these acquired skills will be tested in our annual multi-hazard and maritime full-scale exercise which is set for November 2013.

In addition to a trained force, technology remains a crucial part of our response capabilities and VITEMA will continue to maintain and update our highly-sensitive equipment and communications systems wherever feasible.

Finally, the Agency's ultimate goal is to give the Territory a level of comfort in knowing that we are self-sufficient in the face of disaster. In that vein I continue to proactively advocate for the leasing of warehouses in the Virgin Islands that would be stocked with commodities essential to recovery from a major disaster. It is my goal to have not just one warehouse which serves the USVI, but two. It would take days for commodities to reach the Territory if a catastrophe damages our ports. I am committed to working with all federal, regional, and local stakeholders to ensure that this comes to fruition.

The VITEMA continue to strive towards preparing for all hazards. Tsunami's, earthquakes, and hurricanes are disasters the Territory has experienced. Nonetheless, we continue to face numerous hazards. Hazards as far away as the sun and her coronal mass ejections (CME) which could impact the Territories ability to provide electricity and communication, to diseases impacting human health. Emerging hazards unfamiliar to our Territory and Region are hazards we strive to address and continue to find ways to prepare ensuring a Prepared and Sustainable United States Virgin Islands.

